

FYWS 151-01 Crisis of American Civil Liberties
Saxe - Section 22325, Clough 207, 2-2:50 MWF
E-mail - saxer@rhodes.edu; Phone – 843-3249
Office Hours: 12-1, MW or by appointment, 207 Buckman

Required Texts

Ellen Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*
Geoffrey Stone, *War and Liberty*

Course requirements

Essays

The hard copy of all essays should be typed, double-spaced, and have page numbers. Essays should be affixed with either a clip or staple. They should also have the following at the top of the first page: name, a meaningful title, date, and the word count. Ex:

Robert Saxe

The Tyranny of Professors: A Case Study of History 151

February 1, 2009

680 words

Also, an email copy of your essay must be sent to the professor on the due date. The title of the document should be your last name and the number of the essay. Ex: “Saxe2”

In addition, any use of sources must be cited using Chicago-style footnotes (see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html for help or you may ask the instructor). A title page and works cited page are not necessary. At the end of each essay, the Rhodes pledge should be printed and signed.

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a penalty on the essay’s grade.

Essay 1 - 10% of final grade (1000 words)

For your first essay, I would like you to consider the propaganda techniques used by the Committee on Public Information during WWI. For your essay, please identify two or three different pieces of propaganda, either speeches or advertisements or both, used by the American government during WWI to support the war effort. These can be readily found in the Rhodes library or online. I can help if you are having difficulties locating source material, but make every effort to locate them first (a simple Google search may not be enough).

Then, I would like you to construct an essay looking at the techniques used by the government to garner support for the war effort. What are the arguments being made in your evidence? How effective are the techniques being used? Overall, I would like your essay to answer the question: **should the US government have used propaganda techniques to encourage support for the war effort in WWI?**

Deadlines for this essay:

January 20

Topic for First Essay due in class

January 23

Outline for first Essay due in class

January 25

First draft of First Essay due in class; Workshop in class

January 30

Final draft of First Essay due in class

Essay 2 - 15% of final grade (1500 words)

For your second essay, I want you to survey all of the reading up to this point and think carefully about the notion of "the state." Using the course readings as evidence, I want you to answer the following question: **what is the responsibility of an American to follow the rules of the American state?** Make sure that you define your terms and provide evidence to support your claims. Please include evidence from at least three of the readings.

Deadlines for this essay:

February 8

Topic for Second Essay due in class

February 15

Outline of Second Essay due in class

February 17

First draft of Second Essay due; Workshop in class

February 22

Final draft of Second Essay due

Essay 3 - 20% of final grade (2000 words)

For your third essay, I want you to survey all of the sources in the "Documents" section of the Schrecker book. Identify at least three readings that you feel best exemplify the controversies of the age of McCarthyism (please avoid Hook and Douglas). Use these sources as a guide to evaluate the movie *Good Night and Good Luck*. What do these sources show that the filmmakers got right in the movie? What did they miss? Make sure to answer the following question: **Is *Good Night and Good Luck* a useful resource for students to understand post-WWII anti-communism?**

Deadlines for this essay:

March 26

Topic for Second Essay due In class

March 28

Outline for Third Essay due in class

March 30

First draft of Third Essay due in class; Workshop in class

April 4

Final Draft of Third Essay due in class

Essay 4 - 25% of final grade (3000-3500 words) This will be a longer research essay.

For the final essay of the course, you are to choose a topic on American civil liberties and

write a research paper related to the themes of the course. The most difficult challenge of this kind of paper is to decide on a workable topic. A quick survey of the required readings may help to narrow down an area of interest. Another approach is to look at the types of sources that are both available and interesting to the writer and develop a topic from that point. The nature of the topic of this paper is wide open, but it will need to be related to the themes of the course. You may select a particular issue, individual, or theme for your topic. In addition, you will give a presentation on your topic.

Deadlines for this essay:

February 6

Topic for the Fourth Essay due in class

March 9

Bibliography for Fourth Essay due in class

April 9

Outline and Intro/Conclusion for Fourth Essay due in class

April 25

Final Draft of Fourth Essay due in class

April 20-25

Research Presentations

Short assignments – 10% of final grade. There will be a series of short writing assignment throughout the semester.

Take home final exam – 10% of final grade.

Wednesday, May 2, 5:30 PM

Class Participation

Active participation in class discussion – 10% of final grade. Active participation in class discussion is the best way to achieve a good class participation grade. Class participation also includes good conduct. Please put all cell phones out of sight (not your lap!) before class begins. If you plan on using a laptop in class, you are required to pledge that it will only be used for taking notes. Failure to participate in class, neglecting to do the reading for the day, sleeping or leaving during class, playing games on your laptop or doing text messaging during class may all have a negative impact on your grade.

Course Policies:

Class attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed three absences without penalty. Students are required to find out what they missed in class on the day of their absence. If students miss more than three classes, they are required to meet with the professor to discuss their absences. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of a student's final grade by one third grade point for every absence over three. Please consider this policy when planning for extracurricular activities (sports, mock trial, etc.).

Due dates and times for writing assignments and exams are fixed. All assignments are due in class, not in the professor's mailbox. Late assignments will receive a failing

grade. All assignments must be turned in to the professor. Failure to complete an assignment will result in a failing grade for the class. If you have questions about plagiarism, please talk to me directly.

The professor supports the Rhodes College Honor Code. To demonstrate commitment to the Code, each student must write “pledged” and sign his/her name on every assignment.

Course schedule

Wednesday, January 11

Introduction

Friday, January 13

Occupy movement

Monday, January 16

MLK Day

Wednesday, January 18

American Wars and Liberty (Stone, 1-40)

Essay Writing: Argument; Selection of Topic

Friday, January 20

WWI and 100% Americanism (Stone, 41-63)

Topic for First Essay due in class

Monday, January 23

Manufacturing Consent – the Committee on Public Information (Bring your ads from WWI)

Outline for First Essay due in class

Wednesday, January 25

First draft of First Essay due in class; Workshop in class

Friday, January 27

WWI Continued (Randolph Bourne, “War is the Health of the State,” 1918, and Eugene Debs, Canton, Ohio speech, 1918)

Monday, January 30

The Red Scare

(Stanley Cohen, “A Study in Nativism,” *Political Science Quarterly*, 1964 and Abramowitz, “The Press and the Red Scare,” In Edsforth/Bennett, *Popular Culture and Political Change in America*, 1991)

Final Draft of First Essay due in class

Wednesday, February 1

The Red Scare Continued ("Account from Centralia," 1919)

Friday, February 3

Essay Writing: Intro/Conclusion

Monday, February 6

The Immigration Acts of 1917 and 1924 (Debates about the acts)

Topic for Fourth Essay due in class

Wednesday, February 8

Mexican "Repatriation" (selections from Balderrama, *Decade of Betrayal*)

Topic for Second Essay due in class

Friday, February 10

Scottsboro (selections from Goodman, *Stories of Scottsboro*)

Monday, February 13

Essay writing: Clarity

Outline of Second Essay due in class

Wednesday, February 15

First draft of Second Essay due; Workshop in class

Friday, February 17

WWII and the Four Freedoms (FDR, "Four Freedoms" speech; selections from Stouffer et. al, *The American Soldier*; Fleeger, "Forget All the Differences," *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Winter 2008)

Monday, February 20

WWII and Japanese Internment (Stone, 64-84; William H. Requist, *All the Laws but One: Civil Liberties in Wartime*, Ch. Ch. 15-17)

Wednesday, February 22

McCarthyism before McCarthy (Schrecker, 20-30; 278-283; Stone, 85-106)

Final draft of Second Essay due

Friday, February 24

Anti-Communism and its Varieties (Schrecker, Introduction, 1-19, 31-62, 80-89, 95-103, 110-118, 122-125, 177-187, 221-225, 262-263)

Monday, February 27

Essay Writing: Research

Wednesday, February 29

Civil Liberties and the Media: Communists in Hollywood (Schrecker, 63-79, 89-93, 126-133, 214-16, 226-241, 244-248)

Friday, March 2
Watch *Good Night and Good Luck* (2005)

Monday, March 5
Finish *Good Night and Good Luck*

Wednesday, March 7
Assessing McCarthy's Legacy (Schrecker, 93-95, 104-106, 166-168)

Friday, March 9
Discuss Film
Bibliography for Fourth Essay due

March 12, 14, 16 - Spring Break

Monday, March 19
Essay writing: Evidence and Opinion

Wednesday, March 21
The Cold War and the 60s (JFK's inauguration speech; LBJ's "Great Society" speech; MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech)

Friday, March 23
Anti-War, Anti-America? (Selections from FBI reports on anti-war protest and MLK; Richard Nixon's "Silent Majority" Speech; Stone 107-127)

Monday, March 26
The War on Terror or War on Liberty? (Stone, 128-165)
Topic for Third Essay due in class

Wednesday, March 28
Academic Freedom and The War on Terror (selections from Charlie Savage, *Takeover*, 2008; selections from Doumani, *Academic Freedom after September 11*, 2006)
Outline for Third Essay due in class

Friday March 30
First draft of Third Essay due in class; Workshop in class

Monday, April 2
Torture and The War on Terror (Glen Greenwald, "Torture and the Rule of Law," *Salon*, 2008; Alan Dershowitz, "Tortured Reasoning," *Torture: A Collection*, 2006)

Wednesday, April 4
War on Terror Continued

Final Draft of Third Essay due in class

Friday, April 6
Spring Break

Monday, April 9

Outline and Intro/Conclusion of Fourth Essay due, workshop in class

Wednesday, April 11

Privacy and the War on Terror (John Solomon and Barton Gellman, "Frequent Errors in FBI's Secret Record Requests," Washington Post, 3/9/07)

Friday, April 13

Effective Research Presentations

Monday, April 16

Racial Profiling and the War on Terror (Edley, "The New American Dilemma: Racial Profiling Post 9/11," 2003; Charles Krauthammer, "Give Grandma a Pass," *Time*, 2005)

Wednesday, April 18

The Future of American Civil Liberties (Stone, 166-184; William H. Rehnquist, *All the Laws but One: Civil Liberties in Wartime*, Ch. 18)

Friday, April 20

Research Presentations

Monday, April 23

Research Presentations

Wednesday, April 25

Research presentations

Final Draft of Fourth Essay due in class

Pick up Take Home Final Exam

Friday, April 27

URCAS

Wednesday, May 2, 5:30 PM

Take Home Final Due